

MINUTES
Page 1 of 6
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
July 25, 2005
REGULAR SESSION

Call to Order

The Board of Selectmen convened in open session at 7:02 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of Belmont Town Hall. All members were present. Town Administrator Thomas G. Younger was present.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

Action by Appointment

Request for New Officers' Approval

Police Chief Andrew O'Malley asked permission to hire two new officers from the Civil Service list.

The Board moved: to approve the hiring of two new officers.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

There was discussion about the number of budgeted officers. Police Chief O'Malley stated that right now they are below the budgeted number of officers.

The Board moved: to approve the Police Chief's request to hire three additional officers in the future.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. O'Malley made the Selectmen aware that there were some other officers passed by for hiring because they did not meet some requirements.

Selectman Brownsberger told the Board that the discussion of Purecoat was not going to take place tonight and that he had received a letter from the Company apologizing for their not being able to attend. They would like to meet with the Board sometime in September.

Discussion of ESCO Project

Jenny Fallon of the Facilities Energy Management Project Committee, along with members James Fitzgerald and Roger Colton, presented a signed agreement

between the Town of Belmont and NORESCO, which outlines a variety of energy savings methods that the town will be implementing. Projected savings will be \$202,000 per year, or higher. These savings are being used to fund the cost of the capital improvements to generate the savings with a payback of about 9 years. Work will begin about August 8 and will take about 10 months.

Chairman Solomon thanked all who worked on this committee.

Discussion of Oakley Neighborhood Association

Joanna Hilgenberg appeared before the Board representing a group of citizens from the Oakley neighborhood. She explained that residents of this neighborhood have formed a planning group to address development of the Our Lady of Mercy church and school site. They are interested in seeing that any development of this parcel is of the same size and scope as now exists in the neighborhood. They informed the Board of Selectmen that they want to be part of the development plan and are hopeful that the town will help in controlling land use.

Selectman Firenze suggested the Town Administrator speak with the Archdiocese to determine what their plans are for the site. Chairman Solomon asked that Joanna Hilgenberg's Oakley Neighborhood group speak with the Belmont Housing Trust and then report back to the Selectmen, as to what the Trust would be proposing for the site.

Public Hearing on Utility Petitions

Keyspan representative Francis O'Leary told the Board of Selectmen that the Ripley Road petition has been withdrawn as they do not wish to dig on this newly redone street.

Mr. O'Leary continued to outline the work on Knowles Road.

The Board moved: to approve the petition for Keyspan's work on Knowles Road with terms outlined in a memo from the Director of Community Development.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Selectman Brownsberger asked Mr. O'Leary about Snake Hill Road work and asked why the lines did not run to Snake Hill Road on Pleasant Street as outlined in their plan. Mr. O'Leary said that the State forbids them from running a line down Pleasant Street to Snake Hill Road. Keyspan is working with Snake Hill Road residents to determine how many would be willing to receive gas lines to their homes.

Mr. Fitzgibbons of Verizon appeared before the Board to outline plans for Grove Street and plans for Audrey, Woods and Betts Road.

Several residents were present from these areas and asked a variety of questions.

The Board moved: to approve the petition for Verizon's work on Grove Street and work on Audrey, Woods and Betts Roads with terms outlined in a memo from the Director of Community Development.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Skating Rink Proposal

Director of Public Works Peter Castanino and Permanent Building Committee Chair Pat Bruschi updated the Board of Selectmen on the work to be performed at the skating rink and the proposal received. The working group consisted of Public Works Director Peter Castanino, Pat Bruschi, Building Services Manager Kevin Looney, Michael Santoro of Public Works and Robert Martin of School Facilities. They recommend choosing the proposal by the MacLaughlin Group and emphasized that this project is on a very tight schedule and there is a need to have ice by the end of November.

The Board moved: to approve the recommendation of the working group to hire MacLaughlin and to have the working group approve the finalized contracts and fees, as well as give the working group authority to add another overseeing consultant, if necessary.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to give authority to the Town Administrator to approve the working group's recommendations in the absence of the Board of Selectmen.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of New Public Works Facility

Mr. Castanino gave a brief overview of the importance of doing a feasibility and programming study for the new Public Works Facility and the site as a whole. He asked for permission to hire Gannet Fleming of Braintree to perform a Feasibility and Programming Study of the site.

The Board moved: to approve the recommendation to hire Gannet Fleming of Braintree to perform a Feasibility and Programming Study of the Public Works Facility and site and that the Town Administrator be authorized to

negotiate the fee for the professional service and that the working group be authorized to oversee this study.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Bidding for Bituminous Concrete and Permanent Patching

Mr. Castanino told the Board of Selectmen that he had only received one bid for bituminous concrete and permanent patching and felt that this one bid was not in the town's best interest. Therefore he asked the Board to vote to reject this bid.

The Board moved: to reject the only bid received for bituminous concrete and permanent patching and authorized the Public Works Director to rebid it.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Special Town Meeting in Fall

Town Administrator Thomas Younger outlined a variety of topics for the Special Town Meeting in the Fall:

1. Disposition of Fire Stations;
2. Woodfall Road parcel;
3. Possible debt exclusion for the Senior Center;
4. Revision of property taxation methods;
5. A bylaw regarding accessible public buildings

It was the Board's consensus that October 24 should be the date for the Fall Town Meeting.

Discussion of Vision 21 Implementation Committee – Sustainable Belmont

Vision 21 Implementation Committee members Jennifer Page, Jan Kruse and Heather Tuttle appeared before the Board to outline goals for the subgroup "Sustainable Belmont." The main goal of the group is to implement a climate action plan for the town and to do some public education in these areas.

The Board moved: to express support of the goals of "Sustainable Belmont" and support this group's joining the Massachusetts Climate Action Network.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Tom Younger provided his weekly report on ongoing town events.

1. Powers and Sullivan will be the town's new auditor
2. Update on the demolition of 303 Concord Avenue
3. Installation of water main on Grove Street/Bright Road/Washington Street intersection
4. "Meet Belmont" will take place in August and Selectmen are encouraged to attend
5. Trailers behind the High School need some disposition and it is suggested that a poll be taken to determine if there is any use possibility of use by a town office

Action by Consent

Approval of SEIU Contract

The Board moved: to approve the SEIU union contract.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Approval of Procedure for Placement of Memorials

The Board moved: to approve the procedure for placement of memorials as drafted by Town Administrator Younger.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Action by Writing

Memorandum from Community Development Director re: Approval of BSC Group Contract

The Board discussed parking along Trapelo Road and how the BSC Group's contract will address this issue. Town Administrator was directed to inform the Traffic Advisory Committee that parking on Trapelo Road is an issue for business owners.

The Board moved: to sign the BSC Contract.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Other

Selectman Brownsberger continued discussion about Purecoat North. He felt that they were very willing to work with the town and do want to meet with the Board at

a later date. Selectman Brownsberger offered to meet with Purecoat, along with the Chair of the Purecoat Committee. All were in agreement.

Selectman Firenze asked about correspondence from the Regional Transportation Plan and pointed out that the Board needs to appoint up to five representatives.

The Board moved: to appoint to the Regional Transportation Plan the Town Administrator as designee of the Chair, as well as informing Chairs/Department Heads to designate a member from the Planning Board, Community Development, Vision 21 Implementation Committee and two members from the Traffic Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation; and further that the Board will not return to open session.

The Board adjourned its open session at 9:30 p.m.

Thomas G. Younger
Town Administrator